

### REMARKS

The rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 12 and 14 under 35 USC 102 for anticipation by the cited Canadian Brey patent is traversed by combining claim 1 with claim 2.

The sole rejection then remaining of claim 2 and the rest of the dependent claims under 35 USC '112, first paragraph, because page 7 of the specification describes extension of the second splicing table transport unit 22 from the outlet end of the splicing table is traversed by amending the specification to describe that such extension is from the outlet end toward the inlet end as shown in original figures 2A-2D.

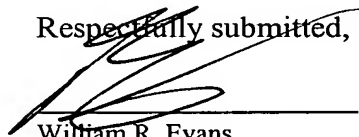
The first splicing table transport unit is now also correspondingly described in the specification on the basis of original figures 2A-2D.

The combination of claims 1 and 2 by amendment above corresponds to the amended specification. Inasmuch as these changes merely confirm the original, albeit unclear meaning of the description on the basis of the always clear drawings, no narrowing or, therefore, Festo-like limitations result.

Other non-narrowing changes to the claims for clarity also avoid Festo-like limitations.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Evans  
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP  
26 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10023  
Reg. No. 25858  
Tel. No. (212) 708-1930